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To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Tina Polsky and Rep. Nick Duran Introduce Legislation to Provide Employment Protections to Medical Marijuana Patients in the Public Sector
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 12:55:45 PM

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January 21, 2021

CONTACT

Fabiana Mehrgut
Office of Representative Nick Duran
Fabiana.Mehrgut@myfloridahouse.gov
(305) 860-7119

J.J. Piskadlo
Office of Senator Tina Polsky
Piskadlo.John@flsenate.gov
(850) 487-5029

**Sen. Tina Polsky and Rep. Nick Duran Introduce
Legislation to Provide Employment Protections to Medical
Marijuana Patients in the Public Sector**

Bills would require public employees who are medical marijuana patients to be protected from termination as a result of their status as a qualified patient

Tallahassee, FL- Today **Senator Tina Polsky (D- Boca Raton)** and **Representative Nicholas X. Duran (D- Miami)** filed legislation ([SB 692](#) and [HB 335](#), respectively) to require that public employees who are qualified medical marijuana patients be treated like prescribed users of any other medication, and exempted from termination and other adverse actions *solely* because of their medical marijuana use. This legislation comes on the heels of a Central Florida high school dean, and former U.S. Marine who suffers from PTSD, being suspended without pay by the Marion County school district after testing positive for marijuana.

Sen. Polsky and **Rep. Duran** issued a joint statement regarding the proposed legislation:

“Since Floridians overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana in our state, leaders in the legislature have repeatedly implored that we ‘treat this like any other medicine’ – but when it comes to giving medical marijuana patients basic employment protections that simply is not the case. A veteran with PTSD working in a school district shouldn’t have to lose his job because of the medical treatment recommended by his doctor; just like someone seriously injured in a car accident should not – and cannot – lose their job for testing positive for prescribed

painkillers.

If the legislature is serious about treating medical marijuana like medicine, we must extend these basic protections to public employees.”

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